

THE JERUSALEM POST

Founded as The Palestine Post in 1932. Published daily except on Saturdays in Jerusalem by The Palestine Post Ltd., Registered at the G.P.O.

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Annual Subscription: Local - IL.4.500
Abroad - IL.6.000
Sunday, November 3, 1957
Jerusalem, 5717, 10 Hahavatzel, 1957

TWO anniversaries are being celebrated today. Forty years ago the Balfour Declaration first gave legal form to the aspirations of the Jewish people seeking to rebuild its national life in the land of its fathers. Five years ago, Chaim Weizmann, who played such a vital and romantic role in the attainment of the Balfour Declaration, passed to his eternal rest after having crowned a career of successful service in the growth of Zionism by becoming the first president of the Third Commonwealth of Israel, the state restored after nearly two millennia of exile.

Such anniversaries are more than symbols. They serve as reminders of the pace of human achievement, and by marking that pace they also indicate the quality of the achievement. Insofar as the progress of Zionism is concerned, the achievement may seem to us little short of miraculous, even from the sheer standpoint of speed and time alone. When Herzl, the father of modern Zionism, addressed the Basle Congress in 1897 he prophesied that a Jewish State would emerge within 50 years. When the Balfour Declaration was promulgated only 20 years later, people saw such promise only through the dazzling eyes of vision, for in 1917 it would have needed a barely optimistic or visionary to have foreseen the rapid march towards statehood from the restricted position of the Yishuv at that time. It numbered a few tens of thousands, broken and afflicted by an oppressive government in the throes of imminent defeat, without any solid economic basis for future progress.

Perhaps those whose vision found practical expression in a naive faith in the effectiveness of political manoeuvre alone might in 1917 have thought that the attainment of a Jewish State would now be rapid. The realists were those of a mind with Weizmann who appreciated that political endeavour might bring about the formal establishment of the Jewish National Home, but that politics must be based on physical realities and the physical realities of the Jewish State had still to be created. Thus the long intensive work of colonization and building began which culminated almost ten years ago in the establishment of the State of Israel. Ten years have passed since that date and now we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the first of the political realities which brought the state about. Some of the realities which affected the issue since then were not of our own making. These included the destruction of the six million Jews of Europe, which perhaps inclined the minds of the nations to look a little more closely and sympathetically for a solution to the question of the Jewish future, and at the same time for some small appeasement of their own uneasy conscience. But the overriding reality was the fact that the work of the Zionist Movement had created a set of circumstances, absolutely inescapable even for those who wished to ignore them, that the only way in which a permanent solution could be sought was in the establishment of a state for the Jewish people in Palestine. This reality was created by one factor alone: the Jewish people throughout the world organized in the Zionist Movement for the creation of the Jewish State.

This, then, is the import today of the two anniversaries. One, that of the Balfour Declaration, commemorates a fact or a potential, the other that of the death of Chaim Weizmann, calls to mind a man who made that fact the centre of his life's work in guiding the Jewish nation in the first stage of its struggle towards statehood.

Soviet Survey:

By Edward Crankshaw

THE ZHUKOV RIDDLE

LONDON (OPNS).—STALIN in his heyday made a regular practice of acting without explanation. He did not have to explain; and as often as not he did not even trouble to announce. A prominent figure would one day be missing from his usual place at some public function, and when this had happened several times running, it would be quietly assumed that the said prominent figure was no more in the land of the active. Or his dismissal would be announced with no reasons given. Or, in the days of the Terror (and it was not needed for a show trial), a small paragraph in "Pravda" would intimate that he had been arrested, tried, sentenced and shot.

Mr. Khrushchev, so far, has not shown any lack of this technique; he has been voluble in self-justification and explanation, even though the explanation has often been patently false. He has made a drama of everything. And when he finally got rid of his late colleagues, Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich and Shennikov, Shennikov Bros., who graduated from the Rehovot Agricultural College and settled in Kiryat Shmona, in charge. We approached him with a sharp fragrance assailed our nostrils. It is grown to supply the requirements of the drug industry, for a month or so, and to camouflage the smell of medication. It is also added to chewing gum, sweets and perfumes. The experimental plot covers 250 dunams. On the dunam produces 1.5 to two tons of mint — a high yield — from which 4.5 kilos of essential oil can be extracted at a cost of 100 sheqels. The idea of growing mint was first mooted by the Tamiz factory in Haifa, which grows a fertile and weedless soil, both requirements which the Hula region satisfies. The average yield is not below that obtained in the U.S.

Forestalling Action
The affair of Marshal Zhukov is something else again. The sudden, unprepared announcement of his retirement from the Ministry of Defence had all the look of a forestalling action, and it was in a hurry as a necessary preliminary move to stop a dangerous situation getting out of hand.

What situation? Just three weeks ago, writing about the position of Marshal Zhukov in the Communist hierarchy, I pointed out how little we know about this man, and indeed how we know nothing at all about the groupings among the more politically minded Army officers. I suggested that the key to Zhukov's remarkable position might be found in his own history, and in some unknown group of Army officers seeking to play a political role and succeeding. I concluded:

"A new force has, in fact, entered the scene. It is not a new force, but a new force, and we do not yet know its nature or direction. We do not know whether it is a force, or whether it is an instrument. All that matters is the existence of this force. The fact that the men closest to it are also in the Communist Party itself is a very important fact that the very existence of a force, other than that represented by professional Party functionaries, is a threat to the unity and stability of the regime."

It looks as though Mr. Khrushchev has been thinking along the same lines, and fairly suddenly, and without any warning, he has taken up the issue in open opposition to his policies (or some of them), whether he was secretly conspiring or whether he was simply a figure being used as a cover by a conspiratorial opposition group composed of lesser Army commanders, is really neither here nor there. The

sacking of Zhukov without a word of explanation, within an hour after his return from Yugoslavia, would seem to have been intended as a signal to this opposition that the game was up. But just what was the game exactly? Were the oppositionists using Khrushchev first to help them get rid of his colleagues so that he could be more easily destroyed himself (that was Stalin's technique)? Or was it certain about the Soviet Army it is that it does contain active oppositionists to the regime. We talk too easily of the Army as though it were a monolithic entity; it is no more monolithic than any army in any land—it is shot through with opposition, rivalries and the consequent intrigues. And did Khrushchev suddenly discover the existence of an active conspiracy and move to scotch it at once?

Evident Haste
It could, of course, be argued that Khrushchev himself used Zhukov to help him get rid of his colleagues, and has now turned on the man who helped him. But this takes no account of the evident haste with which Khrushchev finally acted. Had he been manoeuvring at leisure he would have chosen his moment and he would have been ready with his explanation. Yet, in fact, there has been a conspiracy against the regime, will the removal of Zhukov from the Ministry of Defence be enough to kill it? I think the answer is that it will not.

New Crops in Hula

By Yeshayah Ashnt

WE have paid a visit to the area under experimental cultivation in the Hula, the drainage of which has just been completed. A young agriculturalist, Shimon Brosh, who graduated from the Rehovot Agricultural College and settled in Kiryat Shmona, in charge. We approached him with a sharp fragrance assailed our nostrils. It is grown to supply the requirements of the drug industry, for a month or so, and to camouflage the smell of medication. It is also added to chewing gum, sweets and perfumes. The experimental plot covers 250 dunams. On the dunam produces 1.5 to two tons of mint — a high yield — from which 4.5 kilos of essential oil can be extracted at a cost of 100 sheqels. The idea of growing mint was first mooted by the Tamiz factory in Haifa, which grows a fertile and weedless soil, both requirements which the Hula region satisfies. The average yield is not below that obtained in the U.S.

Fragrant Grass
We then moved on to the field of limon grass, again an important plant for the drug industry, used in perfumes and for adding fragrance to soap. The prices obtained but the prices obtained do not make cultivation profitable. Sugar cane is also grown here and we tasted one. It was just as in California, just as in California. What is now needed is a canning factory to absorb the crop. Sorghum has yielded 400 kilos a hectare, higher than average, and ground nuts, average. The cotton yield is lower, as in all nitrogen soils. In this case there was an overgrowth of foliage — 220 kilos for the first crop.

In the autumn and winter of 1956 and spring of 1957 the following crops and areas were cultivated: Ground nuts—1,150 dunams; cotton—1,060 dunams; maize—3,000; sorghum—3,500; rice—500; canning tomatoes—60; onions—45; melons—25; sugar cane—40; winter grain—2,500; potatoes—500; sugar beet—300; flower bulbs—200; experimental area—300; total area under cultivation—12,900. The total value of the

above crops is estimated at IL.800,000. Some 20,000 dunams in tens of thousands, already been reclaimed. Next spring the whole 20,000 dunams will be under intensive cultivation, providing permanent employment for an average of 800 persons. In the final stage, annual production will be worth some IL.7,500,000. There is also no doubt that agricultural development will be followed by growth of a local industry. Surpluses will open up possibilities for livestock rearing for meat.

We visited the large sheds of the Hula Development Authority. The swamp bestowed one further gift on its conquerors — iris and gladioli. About 20,000-30,000 bulbs a dunam. They were exported to Holland, England, Finland and the U.S. The bigger the bulb the better the price. In charge is Mrs. Yemima Ribak, wife of the treasurer of Kfar Blum and a mother of four. She has done much to develop the area, and has been admitted to the galleries; but even this, as has been pointed out, is by no means a guarantee that undesirable machines for doing it. She is now working on a device for counting the bulbs since they are sold by the piece. During the season 50 to 60 women are employed here.

One of the chief problems is finding sufficient labour for cotton picking. This task is one of the main preoccupations of the secretary of the H.D.A., who rushes around in his car, looking for labour. He has introduced a kind of banana Republic atmosphere, with grim-faced policemen and women running errands over the visitors' clothing. Presumably the visitors would take the hint and stay away.

Besides, once we take to bomb-mania, we might as well include the Knesset members themselves in the list of suspects, and certainly the Press and attendants.

Parliamentary Report
The Foreign Affairs debate has not yielded anything very new up to now. It might be said that Mr. Ben-Gurion, when he started the ball rolling a fortnight ago, said in effect that he saw no present likelihood of any move in the direction of formal ties with the West. In case anyone chose to interpret this statement as an infinitesimal shift to the East, in the direction of "neutrality," Mrs. Meir came to restore the status quo in the following week by saying that there would be no move East and no experiment in political appeasement of the growing Soviet-impelled forces in Syria. Last there should still be any doubt, Mr. Meir Argov, the Mapai chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, elaborated the situation by pointing out that even if we were "neutral" — if there is such a thing — the two world powers still would not accept that at its face value and agree to arm us against our threatening neighbours, so that we had no choice but to set about obtaining the arms we need for defence as best we can.

The opposition produced its customary counsel of perfection. Mr. Yohanan Bader wanted to know why the Government systematically failed to make a full treaty with France. To judge by his pained indignation, an outsider might suppose that the friendship with France had been the fruit of a Herut administration and was now being shamefully neglected. It is of course true that Jacques Soustelle, leader of the French parliamentary delegation that visited Israel last August, thought it might be helpful

when our enemies forsake their blind hatred of us and take up Israel's outstretched hand, the success of the Hula project will help guide them on to the solution of their own really pressing problems.

Haifa (World Mirzahi) writes that the next step is the intensive settlement of the erstwhile swamp land and the swift exploitation of the area to bolster the country's economy and security.

Haifa (World Aguda) speculates on what would happen if Israel were free of security cares and able to address her efforts solely to construction and development, and what a happy picture would present itself were the contending world blocs, instead of weighing the region down with armaments, to contribute towards just this type of constructive development. Those who willingly leave hundreds of thousands of dunams of land lie derelict and let many rivers of water go to waste, concludes the paper, cannot understand the joy that grips a nation that has just added 80,000 dunams of fertile land to its holdings.

Israel Next Target
Omer (Histadrut) writes that we should not make light of the speculation that now that the Soviet-Syrian tirade against Turkey is petering out, Israel will be the next target. The anti-Turkish campaign secured an understanding that Syria would not be attacked, thus giving our northern neighbour a chance to deploy its forces and even take in Egyptian reinforcement.

The "Journal de Brasil" (Rio de Janeiro) has this to say: "The same admirable and rare qualities were evident in Bar-Ilan's solo offerings by Chopin, and contemporary Israeli composers. The pianist showed profound understanding of the values of contemporary music." G.W.B.

Over the years this institution, and its beautiful one-story building at Besalel Street, has become a potent factor of Haifa's musical life, with its 34 teachers and 500 pupils. Among its graduates are many who have won a reputation in international music. To name a few of them: the violinists Zvi Za'lin, Yisach Gittli, the pianists David Bar-Ilan, Yehli Wagnan and Ami Abul of the first founders only Mrs. Dunie-Weizmann still remains, as manager of the institution. People call her "The Mother of Music."



A Rude Interruption

By Lea Ben Dor

RARELY has the Knesset acted with such prompt good sense as when it quietly resumed the foreign policy debate two and a half hours after it had been so unceremoniously interrupted on Tuesday.

The grenade, it turns out, was thrown by one of the unfortunate of this world, who has spent the ten adult years of his life suing various authorities for fabulous sums in compensation for an accident. As every police force in the world knows, there is no way of protecting prominent personalities — "father figures" against either maniacs or determined harakiri-minded political assassins, as witness the American presidents whose lives have been claimed by such senseless bullets.

This is a thought that must at some time or other have passed through the mind of every person sitting in the Knesset, with its high overhanging gallery almost on top of the Cabinet table. Some months ago, about the time of the Kastner murder, stringent security precautions were taken in the Knesset and for a while only visitors with personal invitations from Knesset members were admitted to the galleries; but even this, as has been pointed out, is by no means a guarantee that undesirable machines for doing it. She is now working on a device for counting the bulbs since they are sold by the piece. During the season 50 to 60 women are employed here.

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Kafr Kasim One Of Most Progressive Villages

By DAVID MAGNES

WHAT is Kafr Kasim like today? We joined the village mukhtar, Hamdallah Sarur, and other notables, after the memorial service held at the village mosque on October 29 and attended by 1,500 Arab and Jewish villagers and representatives of the Government and the surrounding communities.

Over innumerable cups of Turkish coffee and glasses of strong black tea, we heard something of Kafr Kasim's history from Hamdallah, whose grandfather's great-grandfather originated from the village of Haja near Nablus. He also present were the Military Governor and his staff, who later departed to pay courtesy calls on the bearded families.

We were told that the Government is paying hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation to the families of the 47 victims and those who suffered in the tragedy. Most of it is being spent on rehabilitation, hospitalization, surgical operations and occupational therapy. Those who cannot work again will receive pensions.

Near Border
Kafr Kasim, situated on a high plateau overlooking the coast, with Greater Tel Aviv in the background, is little more than a stone's throw from the Jordan border. Olive and fig trees dot the surrounding hillsides, in pleasant contrast to the bleak, rocky slopes. The village itself has many fine stone buildings, for it is famous for its quarries and its expert stone dressers and masons, who assure its livelihood.

The village is one of the most progressive in Israel and has its own building programme, which has put up over 300 dwelling rooms in place of mud and tin huts demolished by the village council in the past four years. As part of the Government's regular assistance, a three-inch pipeline is now being laid to a reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic metres will be built in order to supply running water to all the houses. The three pastels-coloured modern villas which have been built since the Shalek Hamdallah has had built for his three married sons by a Tel Aviv architect are already equipped with modern plumbing.

Up to now, the village has relied on an inadequate supply of rainwater from cisterns and wells. All of the public wells but one, incidentally, have been dug since Israel's independence. In heavy drought the Ministry of Agriculture has supplemented those supplies by hauling water by truck from springs some distance away. A new approach road from the highway, replacing the present tortuous one, is to be paved to the village shortly.

Readers' Letters

COURT VERDICT
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I am a complete layman in legal matters but can't help being baffled by the contrast in severity in two court verdicts appearing on two consecutive days in the Post.

On October 27, we read about a case of embezzlement involving IL.28,000, in which the judge imposed a sentence of a year's probation, arguing that it would be more beneficial to society and to the defendant to give him a year's psychiatric treatment than to fine or imprison him, in view of the medical evidence submitted. One cannot take issue with such a verdict without knowing the full case history of the defendant.

But what about this: On the following day, we read of a woman who was fined IL.200, with the alternative of a month in prison, for stealing three bananas valued at 150 pruta. True, the report adds that the woman has a

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